WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Setting up International Airport in Jharkhand

† 1475. SHRI AJAY MAROO: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any plan for constructing any international level airport at any place besides Ranchi in Jharkhand;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, whether Government proposes to take any initiative in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL):(a)No,Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The commercial viability, traffic demands, etc; presently, do not suggest the possibility of taking up any initiative in this regard.

Issue of NOC to Domestic Airlines

1476. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of applications pending for NOC for scheduled domestic airlines for more than one year;

(b) the precise reasons that these applications have not been processed for more than one year;

(c) whether Government is aware that companies desirous of seeking NOC have invested large amount on these projects; and

(d) if so, what steps Government proposes to take for speedy processing of these applications?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (d) At present 10 applications for grant of NOC to operate Scheduled Air Transport Passenger Services are pending. The proposals are under examination interms of financial viability, project feasibility, profitability analysis and analysis of the business plan.

Subsequently, some of these applicants have converted their application to Scheduled Regional airline after introduction of the Civil Aviation Requirement Section 3-Air Transport Series 'C Part VIII dated 23.8.2007 stipulating minimum requirements for grant of permit to operate scheduled regional air transport service. These applications are under consideration of the Government.

Magazines provided during flight

†1477. PROR. RAM DEO BHANDARY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the magazines in English, Hindi and other language being supplied in Aircrafts during flights;

(b) the comparative percentage of these magazines, language-wise;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) whether there has been the pre-eminence of English magazines; and

(d) if so, who is responsible for the violation of Official Language Act/Rules and what action would be taken by Government against them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Names of the flight magazines of English, Hindi and other language being distributed in the flights of National Aviation Company of India Limited formed post merger, are as under:—

Hindi Magazines: India Today, Kadambari, Saakshi, Stardust, Swagat (Bilingual for inflight regarding).

English Magazines: Business India, Business Today, Business World, Femina, Cosmopolitan, Saavi, The Week, India Today, Hard News, Outlook, Readers Digest, Fornt Line, Stardust, Society, Cine Blitz, Moovi, Film Fare, Baavanaj Journel, upper Crust, Time Out, Health & Nutritian, Net Fundu, Economist, News Week GR8, Srishti, Namaskar (Bilingual. Magazine for inflight reading only).

Other Languages: Lok Prabha, Abhiyaan, Chitralekha, Punjabi Digest, Aks, Cineblitz, Malayalam Manorma, Manglam, Matrabhoomi, Vanita, India Today, Kungumam, Anand vikatan, Kalki, Kumudam, Sanandan, Desh, Lafz.

Selection of the magazines are based on feedback from various passengers travelling on international sector and business class passengers of the aircraft.

(b) and (c) Information is being collected.

(d) Efforts are made to comply with the instruction of Government of India with regard to providing Hindi magazines in aircrafts.

Basic requirement for regional Airlines

1478. SHRI B.J. PANDA:
MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) what is the action plan of Centre to promote regional airlines to boost connectivity with small and medium towns/cities; and

(b) what are the basic requirements which have to met before an enterprises is allowed to become a regional airline?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has issued Civil Aviation Requirement. Section 3 Air Transport Series 'C' Part VIII dated 23.8.2007 stipulating minimum requirement for grant of permit to operate scheduled regional air transport service.

The concept of regional airline has been introduced with a view to promote air connectivity with a region, expand air travel service for Tier II and Tier III cities and between specific region. There are four region identified as North, South, West, East/North-East coinciding with the Flight Information Regions (FIRs) as defined by the Airports Authority of India (AAI). The regional airlines are not permitted to operate of category I routes. However, the regional airlines of the southern region which has 3 metros would be allowed to operate between the metros within the southern region namely Bangalore, Chennai and Hyderabad.

The airline can operate with minimum of 3 aircraft and the equity requirement are as under:—

(i) Airlines operating with aircrafts with take off mass equal to or exceeding 40,000 kg.
(a) upto 3 aircraft - Rs 30 crores.